



The Kerite Company
49 Day Street
Seymour, CT 06483-3400
Tel: (203) 888-2591
Fax: (203) 888-1987

February 5, 2009

To Members of the Labor Committee:

I am writing to urge you to not support House Bill 6187 mandating employers provide paid sick leave to employees. Current economic conditions have created a very challenging business environment. Mandating a paid sick leave policy will increase the cost of doing business in CT and will put CT businesses at a competitive disadvantage. The State of CT and the business community should work together to create new jobs and protect existing jobs.

As with any mandated benefit, paid sick leave increases the cost of the overall compensation package. Employers who offer vacation days, health insurance and wage increases will be forced to spend compensation dollars on mandated sick leave. In today's business climate, when one form of compensation becomes more expensive, employers must offset this cost by lowering other forms of compensation.

Employers will need to absorb the cost of more absences and administration to track use and collect documentation from treating physicians to prevent abuse. The government recognized the potential for abuse when enacting the Family and Medical Leave Act by requiring firms to offer leave, but not requiring paid leave.

I request that you take into consideration the impact House Bill 6187 will have on businesses in CT and the competitive disadvantage mandating benefits creates.

Sincerely

John H.
DeGray

Digitally signed by John H. DeGray
DN: cn=John H. DeGray, o=The Kerite
Company, ou=Marmon Wire and
Cable, email=jdegray@kerite.com, c=US
Date: 2009.02.05 17:44:21 -05'00'

John H. DeGray
President
The Kerite Company



A Marmon Wire & Cable/Berkshire Hathaway Company